Prison Inmates Plant Trees In Celebration Of Arbor Day

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WASHINGTON COUNTY, MD - Wednesday is Arbor Day, and some of the people observing it aren't your typical environmentalists.

Inmates from the Division Of Correction in Hagerstown spent the morning planting trees.

It's happening in several other locations across the state, including one in Cumberland.

Officials say they hope to plant 6,000 trees throughout the day and a total of one million over the next few years.

The planting kicked off Wednesday morning at Antietam Battlefield.

Officials say working with other state agencies on a project like this is a great opportunity.

"Every time we work with a new partner, it just multiplies ten times over, we find new projects, new things that we can help them, and again, give our inmates an opportunity to give something back to the public," says Gary Maynard, the Maryland Secretary of Public Safety.

Several large trees were planted along Antietam Creek. They were paid for by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust.